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UNTERMYER URGES JAIL FOR GRAFTERS

Lockwood Committee Favors Demand for Amendment to Anti-Trust Act.

APPEAL TO GOVERNOR

May Ask Special Session to Insure Punishment of Contractors.

CHAGRINED OVER FINES

More Data on Price Fixing Are Brought Out by Probers of Combinations.

Samuel Untermyer, chief counsel for the Lockwood legislative committee, suggested to the committee yesterday that the State anti-trust law be amended to make a jail sentence of from six months to three years for violators mandatory, and, in addition, a fine, not to exceed \$5,000, discretionary with the courts in the case of defendants who plead guilty or are convicted of violations of the law. Senator Charles C. Lockwood, chairman, said that the committee was in unanimous agreement with Mr. Untermyer and would take under consideration his suggestion that Gov. Miller be asked to call a special session of the Legislature to amend the laws.

The determination of Mr. Untermyer and the committee to seek a more drastic enactment of the Legislature—a law with teeth in it—came as the direct result of the sentencing last Monday of thirty-three individuals to fines by Justice Davis in the Supreme Court. In making known the sentiment of the committee Mr. Untermyer made it plain that he was not criticizing the action of the court in the cases referred to, but was simply stating its effect upon the committee's work. The action of the court, he said, had seriously embarrassed the committee in the present stage of its campaign against building material combinations.

Another development brought out at yesterday's session of the committee was the disclosure that the city had paid out more than \$2,000,000 on contracts for school buildings which were made as a result of collusive bidding by plumbers and heating and ventilating contractors who were members of the Hettrick ring. It was also shown that since the Lockwood committee's exposure of the collusive bidding practices by the contractors the city had benefited to the extent of a paper saving of about \$13,000,000 on estimates for eighty school buildings, according to figures provided by C. R. J. Snyder, Superintendent of School Buildings of the Board of Education.

To Smash Water Meter Exchange.

The other features of yesterday's work of the committee included the putting into the record of the resolutions ending the price reporting and price fixing activities of the nine various exchanges of which Albert A. Almsworth was secretary which had to do with building materials. One after another Mr. Almsworth presented the resolutions which Mr. Untermyer read into the record with the warning that the committee intended to pursue its inquiry to find whether the resolutions were actually being carried out. In one of the exchanges—the Range Boiler Manufacturers—the record showed that a minority of the members had been represented at the meeting at which the resolution was adopted. Mr. Untermyer insisted on a ratification of the resolution by the absentee members and Mr. Almsworth promised to procure it. Another, the Water Meter Manufacturers Exchange, Mr. Untermyer said the committee would insist, should be dissolved entirely, and not function even as a credit agency.

To add to the sum total of the day's accomplishment Mr. Untermyer got into the record a fairly comprehensive review of the activities of the Mosaic Employers Association brought out through Ellis H. McLaury of the McLaury Mar-

Croatians Organize Society of Assassins

BELGRADE, May 18.—An organization called the "Omladina," made up mostly of students, formed for the purpose of assassinating all Ministers aiding in the promulgation of legislation in Croatia, which they oppose, is said to have been discovered by the police in Agram.

bie and Tile Corporation, 881 East 141st street, president of the organization. Mr. McLaury, who refused to waive immunity, was a recalcitrant witness and once Mr. Untermyer was forced to threaten him with commitment. Before he was excused, however, he admitted that the Mosaic Employers' organization in 1917 had adopted a "working plan" and "price reporting" system in the face of a letter from the organization's attorneys, Gilbert, Campbell & Myers, that such action would be illegal. Mr. Untermyer forced the witness to identify the report and plan and make the admission that it was a "pretty damaging document."

Need of Special Session.

In his recommendations to the committee concerning a special session Mr. Untermyer called specific attention to the building material cases which came up before Justice Davis on Monday and declared that the building material cases were among the most aggravating that had been developed by the committee.

The hearing was open, frequent, persistent, long continued violations of the law," he said. He then urged the committee to take up with the Governor the matter of a special session to amend the laws, and referred also to other legislation which he thought would be necessary to aid the committee's work and enforce its findings. This includes provision that will permit the city, in cases where original contractors on city work default, to take over the subcontracts and thus avoid being victimized by pyramiding of prices as was shown last week in the case of the Cumberland Street Hospital, which is to cost the city \$500,000 more than was intended.

The examination of President McLaury of the Mosaic Employers Association and the disclosures relating to that organization in many respects were the most sensational since the committee resumed its activities. McLaury put in a most uncomfortable two hours and a half. The most startling bit of testimony adduced through McLaury concerned the "working plan" and "price reporting" scheme of the organization. This provided a scale of \$11 a day for a tile setter and \$9 for a helper, with an additional 10 per cent, to be charged the builder for overhead. It also provided that each member should file all bids, tentative offerings, terms, &c., submitted to prospective customers, with the secretary, and that this information should be interchangeable among members. It also provided that no member of the association would accept a contract from a builder who was in dispute with another member or who had a contract with another member without the written consent of the latter.

Mr. McLaury at first refused to identify the document shown him as what Mr. Untermyer said it purported to be. Finally, on being pressed to examine it, he admitted it for what it was, but was not sure that it ever had been adopted. Mr. Brennan handed Mr. Untermyer the minutes of the meeting at which it was adopted, but the witness could not recall that he had been present at that particular meeting.

"Well, let's see," said Mr. Untermyer. "That was the meeting at which you were elected president of the association. Does that refresh your recollection?" The witness admitted that it did and that he voted for the adoption of the plan. Then Mr. Untermyer confronted him with the letter of the attorney in which the organization was advised against such procedure and cautioned that no subterfuge or artifice adopted would relieve the members of complicity if they were actually engaged in price fixing. In reply to a question the witness McLaury told Mr. Untermyer that no committee of the mosaic employers had been appointed to fix or revise prices.

Mr. Untermyer produced a copy of a report of the "adjustment committee" of the organization, dated December, 1919, showing a comprehensive schedule of prices on a cost plus 33-1/3 per cent basis for such material as wire mesh and tar paper, together with copies of the minutes showing the adoption of the report.

"How dare you sit there and tell this committee that your organization had no price fixing committee?" thundered the lawyer. The witness excused himself on the ground of his "poor memory."

"You know that that's a damaging document, don't you?" asked Mr. Untermyer, waving the report in front of the witness. "I would say so," McLaury replied, half inaudibly.

HOOVER URGES OPEN DOOR IN COMMERCE

Declares It Is Basis of Economic and Social Systems of This Hemisphere.

WARNING ON CONCESSIONS

Danger of Friction Seen in Various Parts of World—Talks to Manufacturers.

Herbert Hoover, Secretary of Commerce, speaking last night at the twenty-sixth annual dinner of the National Association of Manufacturers in the Waldorf, said that the United States must keep her traditional pledge for the open door in the world's trade "because it is the basis of the economic and social systems to which the Western Hemisphere has been dedicated."

He criticized the tendencies toward exploitation, and warned against the danger of friction growing out of trade concessions in various parts of the world. He said he would discuss the "open door" rather than the tariff, adding that "what we do with regard to the tariff is not so material in the history of the world as long as we do it with equality to every one."

"It would be a fatal day in the history of the world," he declared with emphasis, "if the basic policies of the open door and equal opportunity were abandoned. It would mean the irresistible pressure to exert intolerant national strength; it would mean the enforcement of the strength by the weight of Government, which means armies and navies; it would mean a long sequence of reprisals, or favored nation clauses, of reciprocal arrangements, of discriminations through which the weak always go to the wall and the strong always win."

"This is indeed not a threat; it is not an announcement of a national policy. It is a plea that the world should 'stop, look and listen,' for if the day comes when the United States, with her gigantic resources and the intelligence of her people, shall be forced to enter upon those courses in her own protection it will be a day of infinite losses to real progress and real liberalism."

Secretary Hoover pointed out that many nations are restricting development of natural resources within their boundaries to their own citizens, while the United States has preserved an equal opportunity for all nationalities to enter and engage in development. The only restriction with which this country has sympathized, he said, has been with regard to labor immigration.

"We find to-day," he said, "that various governments are directly or indirectly lending influence and support to secure for their nationals in countries foreign to them, exclusive concessions over raw material and the implements of commerce. This will shut the door and close equality of opportunity."

At the beginning of his speech Secretary Hoover expressed the opinion that the return to normal in this country probably will come sooner than many expect. There is little cause, he added, for depression over the local conditions.

Admiral William S. Benson, chairman of the United States Shipping Board, appealed to the manufacturers to support the efforts for the maintenance of an American merchant marine. "The adverse attitude of the leaders of the unions, uncompromising even in a moderate wage reduction," he said, "is a matter of record. My appeal directly to the personnel of the merchant marine has met with a very gratifying response. Many offers of assistance have come to us. I have stated publicly and I again affirm the intention of the Shipping Board to give its fullest protection, both now and after the settlement of the controversy, to all who come to its aid."

HOME TITLE OPENS BUILDING.

Insurance Company Gives Reception in Brooklyn.

The Home Title Insurance Company opened its new building, Willoughby street, Brooklyn, yesterday afternoon, the event being marked by a reception which was attended by men and women prominent in the borough's business and social life, as well as the company's employees. Tea was served in the early afternoon, and later there was a dinner followed by a dance.

The tea table was presided over by the wives of the directors, including Mrs. Edward Bancroft, Mrs. Dorville Coe, Mrs. Dwight Comstock, Mrs. Frederick Bosen, Mrs. Alexander G. Calder and Mrs. Harry Grafton.

LAZINESS OF DRUG CLERKS COSTS U. S. \$20,000,000 YEAR

Government Figures Show That They Are Too Tired to Put Revenue Stamps on Cosmetics, Medicines and Other Taxable Articles.

Special Despatch to THE NEW YORK HERALD.

New York Herald Bureau, Washington, D. C., May 18.

Lazy drug clerks are costing the Government \$20,000,000 a year because of their failure to put revenue stamps on cosmetics, medicines and other articles. Within the last month the figures show that the failure to put stamps on what is sold in drug stores cost the Government in excess of \$1,000,000 below the estimates of what would be derived, and the habit is growing worse. The official estimates on which Congress worked in prescribing the tax held that approximately \$10,000,000 would be realized from this source. Now it

is doubtful if more than \$20,000,000 will be collected. The official estimates were more or less accurate, owing to the fact that the tax had been in force, but in a different way, for a long time.

The tax law provides that the tax on such products be one cent for each item sold for 25 cents or less, but on items of more than 25 cents that it be at the rate of 4 per cent. Originally the tax had been levied on such products at the source, with the result that the Treasury officials had a fair idea of what should be levied.

Inquiry at drug stores has developed that the proprietors have been insisting that stamps be affixed, but the clerks are forgetful.

GET RID OF THEIR HUSBAND.

One Wife Gets Divorce, Another an Annulment.

Mrs. Elizabeth Marie Hammond of 283 West Eighty-seventh street and Mrs. Loretta F. Hammond of Hollands, Queens, were granted a divorce and an annulment in White Plains yesterday from Harold Hammond, a 29-year-old

naval apprentice who is alleged to have married eleven young girls and who is now serving a sentence in the Portsmouth Naval Prison.

Mrs. Elizabeth Hammond, in her action for divorce, named Mrs. Loretta Hammond, while Mrs. Loretta Hammond named Mrs. Elizabeth Hammond in her annulment proceedings. Each of the wives testified for the other in their respective suits. The decrees were handed down by Justice Martin J. Keogh at New Rochelle.

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